

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides methods and systems for the use of an Intelligent Peripheral Concentrator (IPC) in a network that enables more efficient use of IPE resources. A first exemplary embodiment is a method of managing intelligent peripherals, where the IPC receives at least one request from at least one network element, determines necessary resources according to the request(s) and establishes at least one connection with at least one intelligent peripheral based on the necessary resources. A second exemplary embodiment is a concentrator for connecting intelligent peripherals to a network, having at least one connection point for connecting an intelligent peripheral, at least one connection point for connecting to a network and at least one switch for directing information from the network to the at least one intelligent peripheral. A third exemplary embodiment is a system for utilizing intelligent peripherals having at least one device connected to at least one switch, the at least one switch connected to at least one other switch, at least one intelligent peripheral concentrator connected to the at least one switch and at least one intelligent peripheral connected to the at least one intelligent peripheral concentrator.